

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2001
LAREDO, TEXAS**

Let it be remembered that a regular meeting was held on November 13, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

**Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Jerry Vasquez
Judith Gutierrez
Felix Velasquez
Miguel Urdiales**

**County Judge
Commissioner Prct. #1
Commissioner Prct. #2
Commissioner Prct. #3
Commissioner Prct. #4**

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the agenda as posted in the meeting notice of 9th of November 2001. Present were Diana S. Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk, representing Mr. Henry Flores, Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the court.

01-11-293

1. Call to Order – Judge Martinez

Invocation – Mr. William N. Hall, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance – Said by all

01-11-294

2. Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Velasquez with all Voting “aye”, in favor to approve the minutes with corrections stated by Commissioner Velasquez.

Page 3. } Change the name of Commissioner Velasquez to Commissioner Vasquez as the person who seconded the motion.

Page 14. } Change Commissioner Velasquez name to Commissioner Vasquez as person who seconded the motion on items d, e, f.

Meeting of 10/22/2001

Page 10. } amount should state \$ 14,000 instead of \$ 1,400 on item 9. – o.

01-11-295

3. Communications –

Mr. Eloy Vega, Mr. Javier Lopez and Mr. Juan Villarreal, members of the Laredo Firefighters Association Local No. 1390 came before the court and Judge Martinez presented them with a plaque in appreciation for their efforts in helping the firefighters of New York City.

Judge Martinez presented Mr. Cuauhtemoc “Chito” Rodriguez with the Webb County Commissioners “Rising Star” award.

Ms. Madeline Lopez-Tejada, President of the Young Lawyers Association came before the court to present a Proclamation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Felix Velasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to accept a Proclamation for “Keep Justice Alive” week.

Ms. Kristina L. Hale, President-Elect of the Young Lawyers Association came before the court to inform the court of activities planned.

Judge Manuel Flores and Judge Ben Morales spoke a few words about Mr. Charles Borchers, former District Attorney, who passed away a few years ago.

Mr. Andy Ramos, Vice-President of the Young Lawyers Association presented two scholarships in memory of Mr. Borchers.

The scholarships are in the amount of \$ 750.00 and were presented to Armando Marroquin and Mirtha Gonzalez.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve a Proclamation for “World Aids Day”.

Mr. Cesar Martinez, HEB Unit Director came to invite the court to Laredo’s 13th Annual “Feast of Sharing”, the HEB Thanksgiving Dinner on November 18, 2001.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to move up items 01-11-300 8. – k. and 01-11-298 6. - i }

Commissioner Velasquez made a brief presentation regarding naming the new Sheriff’s Administration Building (Norwest Bldg.) after Jose G. “Curly” Herrera.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Velasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to name the new Sheriff’s Administration Building (Norwest Bldg.), The Jose G. “Curly” Herrera Law Administration Center II.

At this time the court took item regarding Sheriff Juan Garza request for legal counsel in connection with Case #2001-CVQ-001523-D2, styled Webb County, Texas by and through its Commissioners Court vs. Juan Garza, individually and in his Capacity as Sheriff of Webb County, in the 111th District Court, Webb County, Texas.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney came before the court and provided a written opinion in response to Sheriff Juan Garza request for legal representation.

Upon advise of Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney the court took no action on item 6. – i.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, in favor to move up item 01-11-302 10. – c. and items 01-11-300 8. – a – k:

A motion was made by Commissioner Urdiales and seconded by Commissioner

Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to table this item:

Discussion and possible action to accept a grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and enter into a Grant Agreement in the amount of \$ 750,000 over a three year period with a county match of \$ 18,312.00 for six (6) new full-time school resource officers and authorize the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

01-11-300

8. – a. – k. -

8. – a. Appraisal District / Cast all votes -

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, in favor to cast all of Webb County’s voting entitlement (932) for Gerardo “Jerry” Vasquez, Webb County’s nominee to the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors for a two year term beginning January 1, 2002 and any matters incident thereto.

8. – b. Tabled Item –

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to table this item:

Action on creating a Human resource department for Webb County effective April 1, 2002.

8. – c. Compensation / Interim Law Librarian –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve compensation for Mr. Reyes Mancha, Interim Law Library Director, during his interim position effective August 13, 2001 until position is filled.

8. – d. Filling of Veteran’s Service Officer –

Judge Martinez recommended that all Commissioners get a copy of all applications, so that they could set up a scoring system and come up with a short list for interviews.

The court agreed to keep the short list to three (3) for the Interview Process for

the final selection.

The County Attorney stated that the short list of applicants must be approved before they are interviewed.

Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Executive Administrator stated that the short list would be presented on the meeting of November 26, 2001 and for interviews to be on November 27, 2001.

No action needed.

10:45 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting "aye", in favor to go into Executive Session for the following items:

- 8. – e. } Status regarding motion filed by the County Attorney in the 341st District Court in connection with pending litigation with the Casa Blanca Golf Course Operator and;
- 8. – f. } Status regarding demand letter sent by the County Attorney to the Casa Blanca Golf Course Operator for amounts owed by the operator to Webb County for expenses incurred by the county in the repair and maintenance of golf course buildings and equipment.

*******EXECUTIVE SESSION*******

Judge Martinez called the meeting to order and stated that no action had been taken in Executive Session.

No action needed on this item, information provided to the court.

- 8. – g. Appoint Committee / Morgue Operating budget –

The court appointed Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Engineer, Mr. Leo Flores, County

Auditor to work together with Judge Mercurio Martinez on a operating budget for the Old Detention Center Building to operate as a morgue.

8. – h. Tabled Item –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to table this item:

Action regarding approval of Resolution to develop a new form of Photographic Identification (I.D.) for electoral purposes, which would assist elections officials in reducing fraud and encourage citizens of Webb County to exercise their right and civic duty to vote.

8. – j. Resolution / State Comptroller Audit –

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve a Resolution requesting State Comptroller to conduct a Technology Audit.

01-11-295 Communications –

Judge Martinez stated that he would like to appoint Mr. Alfredo Castillo to chair the Webb County Parks Committee.

City Of Laredo EMS/Fire calls to Webb County for the month of October 2001.

01-11-296

4. Bills, Payroll and Monthly Reports –

Mr. William N. Hall, Jr., Treasurer presented his report including Sales Tax report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Velasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve the report as presented and payroll for the following dates 10/26, 11/18, 11/21.

The court questioned several Side Bills and the new procedure that was set in place. This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

Auditor’s Report –

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor presented his report to the court.

Tax Assessor-Collector –

Ms. Patricia A. Barrera, Tax Assessor-Collector presented the MVD and Ad Valorem reports.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, in favor to accept all monthly reports as submitted.

01-11-298

6. – a. Deferred Item –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, in favor to defer this item:

Action regarding request from Judge Liendo to increase minutes on License & Weight Department to Public Safety Troopers Cellular Phones.

6. – b. Tax Assessor-Collector / Refund –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Velasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve the following refund:

Olin Smith Reason: Survey indicated that property was part of Highway 359 and reneged on purchase of land because according to Appraisal District property has been “unknown” for the past twenty-years.

6. – c. – e Various Items –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to fill and re-classify the following slots in the Golf Course Department:

Slot# 1987 (Maint.Worker I) at \$ 6.50 an hour effective 11-16-01
Reclassify slot # 1231 from Maintenance Worker II to Assistant Greenskeeper
and to an exempt position at an exempt position at an annual salary of \$ 24,482
(no change in budget) and;

Fill Slot # 036 (General Repairperson) at & 7.79 an hour and Slot # 038
(Custodial) at \$ 6.90 an hour effective November 13, 2001 and;

Fill Slot # 925 (Maintenance/outreach Caseworker) at \$ 8.00 an hour effective
November 14, 2001 and;

Approve a Interlocal Agreement between the City of Laredo and Webb County
Central Welfare Agency for Cemetery services effective October 1, 2001 to
September 30, 2002.

6. – g. Planning Department –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to allow the Planning Department to purchase A portable printer (with accessories) and a DC/AC power converter in an amount not to exceed \$ 800.00 (funding available under line item 606-8001-7409 Rural Addressing. the equipment is required for Emergency 911 Addressing assignments in the field as well as for use during meetings, public hearings and other county related business conducted off-premise) and;

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to issue/ratify “Certifications/regarding compliance with plat requirements and the connection of utilities” to authorize utility connections to the following properties:

Connection qualifying under Sec. 232.029 (i), TLGC

- Lot 7, Block 3, Colorado Acres Subdivision (electricity – 1 dwelling)
- Tract II, Ranchitos Las Lomas I Subdivision (electricity – 1 dwelling)

6. – h. Risk Management –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner

Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to fill Slot #874 (Special Projects Coordinator) at \$ 10.00 an hour effective November 13, 2001.

6. – j. J.P. Alfredo Garcia, Pct. 3 / Technology Fund –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to create a Justice of the Peace Court Technology Fund which requires a defendant to pay \$ 4.00 court costs. These monies would be used to purchase technological equipment to enhance the J.P. Court (pursuant to Subchapter A, Chapter 102 Code of Criminal Procedure, article 102.0173. This article expires 9-01-2005).

01-11-299

7. – a. Payment / D.D. Hachar Foundation –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, in favor to authorize the payment of \$ 14,696.65 to the D.D. Hachar Foundation for the use of land where the Rio Bravo Annex waste Water Treatment Plant is located on Patricia Lane (Funding from Account # 801-3001-8801). **Based on written opinion by County Attorney.

7. – b Watering of Private Road –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, to approve the watering of one mile of private road connecting Las Tiendas and Jefferies Roads as a condition to use that road) The use of that road will save 40 miles per dump truck load thus making five trips per day versus two).

7. – c & d. Authorizing Public Hearings –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, in favor to conduct a Public Hearing for the county’s amended “On site sewage Facilities” order and;

Conduct a Public Hearing for the “Takings Impact assessment” of the amendment of the county’s “On site sewage Facilities” order.

7. – e. Supplemental Agreement # 2 / Bridge 5 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to authorize Supplemental Agreement #2 to work authorization #1 to Dannenbaum Engineering for International Bridge # 5 in the

amount of \$ 30,000.00. This is to satisfy Texas Department of Transportation's regulations for the application of International Bridge # 5.

01-11-301

9. – a. Award Bids/Proposals –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting "aye", in favor to award the following bids/proposals:

P-2001-09 Request for proposal for Architectural Services for the HUD-Neighborhood Initiatives to Design Group International and;

P-2001-12 Request for proposals for Service Provider to operate the Webb County Colonia Self-Help Center to Webb County Community Action Agency

Bid#CAASHC-2001-79 through 2001-85: Webb County Self-Help HUD Colonia Grant Homes for rehabilitation – Noah's Construction – Tomas Urbina Homes to be rehabilitation as follows:

Oscar Inocencio Mirando City
Rafael Rodriguez El Cenizo
Candelario Salazar Mirando City
Francisco Palizo El Cenizo
Nelso Ramos Oilton

9. – b. H-GAG / Bid HT00-03 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting "aye", in favor to purchase through H-GAG bid HT00-03 one (1) ½ ton pick-up truck with extended warranty in the amount of \$ 23,799.54 and two (2) sports utility vehicles with extended warranty in the amount of \$ 54,415.61 for Constable Hinojosa, Pct. 1 (acct.166-2500-3351).

9. – c. Solicit bids -

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting "aye", in favor solicit bids for one Administrative Vehicle Contract #RPT 0202(22) 21 CAA-El Aguila Rural Transportation (acct. 980-4204-8801).

9. – d. Grinnell Fire Protection –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to obtain the services of Grinnell Fire Protection to furnish all labor, material, and freight to replace Omega Sprinkle Head Systems and install Star Institutional Sidewall and pendent heads for the Webb County Justice Center (acct. 153-1301-6791).

9. – e. Purchase copiers / 49th District Court –

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to purchase copiers for the 49th Judicial District Court and County Court at Law I & II from Nevill in the amount of \$ 16,995.25 for each (acct. 166-2500-3351 Capital Outlay 2001).

9. – f. & g Deferred Items -

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Urdiales with all voting “aye”, in favor to defer these items:

Action to approve the transfer of two (2) cellular phones (already assigned) from Cingular Service to U.S. Cellular and for the purchase of five (5) additional Cellular phones for the Texas Department of Public Safety and;

Action to obtain six (6) pagers from Autophone of Laredo, Inc., for the Department of Public Safety.

9. – h. –k Purchasing Items –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve the following items:

Authorize the purchase of ammunition needed for training and qualifications of Peace Officers for the Law Enforcement Center from Kirkpatrick, in the amount \$ 5,424.50 (acct. 001-2060-6402) and;

Purchase two (2) Motorola digital portable radios with leather seviel cases from Motorola, Inc., for the 406th District Court and;

Purchase the following equipment from Automated Hardware Systems in the e Amount of \$ 10,870 for the M.I.S. Department (acct. 001-0105-6032) and;

Lease one digital copier from Nevill for the office of Constable Raul Hinojosa, Pct. 1. (acct.166-2500-3351).

9. – l. Deferred Item –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to defer this item:

Action regarding billing concerns submitted by Corplan Corrections with reference to the upgrade of the Law Enforcement Center.

9. – m. Fill Vacancy / Purchasing Department –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to fill vacancy (Clerk) effective 11-13-2001 (slot number to be assigned by the payroll department).

9. – n. Professional Services / Simplex –

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to obtain Professional Services from Simplex, for labor and materials, to install fire alarm sensor at the Justice Center elevator hoist ways and elevator mechanical rooms as required by the National Fire Code 5 elevators in the amount of \$ 10,000.00 (acct.001-0109-6401).

9. – o. Lease copier –

A motion was made by Commissioner Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez with all voting “aye”, in favor to lease (1) copier from Copy Data for the Treasury Department (\$ 285 p/m).

9. – p. Change Order #2 / Relocate M.I.S. –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Velasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve Change Order #2 for the Webb County Administration and Parking Garage Facility in the amount of \$ 148,284 from Leyendecker Construction to relocate the M.I.S. Department:

Original Contract Amount \$ 10,888,600.00
Change Order # 1 \$ 198,940.00

Change Order # 2 \$ 148,284.00

Total \$ 11,235,824.00

9. – q. Award bids / Grant Project TCDP # 720889 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to award the following bids regarding Interlocal Agreement between Oilton Rural Water Supply Corporation for Grant Project TCDP# 20889:

Water Well to: R. Molina Water Well Service, Inc.
Electrical to: J & R Electric

01-11-302

10. – a. Deferred Item –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to defer this item:

Action to enter into a cellular service agreement with U.S. Cellular for various Webb County Departments for a period of three years beginning November 1, 2001 through October 31, 2004 at fees as set forth in the agreement authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.

10. – b. Third Party Agreements –

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to approve to enter into the following Third Party Funding Agreements (general fund) and designation of payment schedules:

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Sacred Heart Children’s Home	\$ 5,000
Ruthe B. Cowl Rehab Center	\$ 90,000
Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN)	\$ 5,000
American Red Cross	\$ 7,500
Boys and Girls Club	\$ 25,000
LDF	\$ 95,000
Border Area Nutrition Council	\$ 45,000
Crime Stoppers	\$ 2,000
Regional Food Bank	\$ 5,000
Webb County Soil & Conservation	\$ 4,000
Bethany House	\$ 3,000
Laredo/Webb County Food Bank	\$ 5,000

American G.I. Forum	\$ 1,000
Children’s International Advocacy Center	\$ 50,000
Laredo Veteran’s Coalition	\$ 50,000
Laredo Animal Protective Society	\$ 32,000

6. – f. Deferred Item –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to defer this item:

Action regarding the reimbursement of the difference between travel funds advanced and actual travel funds spent by employees of the Adult Probation Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gutierrez and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez with all voting “aye”, in favor to adjourn the meeting.